Mining Corporation and M/s Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation in August 2006, is a regionally explored block. It was *inter-alia* stated in the terms and conditions of allocation that whether the block could be operated as one mine or otherwise would be determined by the Central Government after the detailed explofation is completed, having regard to factors such as the interest of conservation, safety, deployment of optimal technology for optimal extraction of coal, mine capacity, the earliest commencment of production etc. Since, the detailed exploration in this block has not been carried out so far, it is not possible to examine the possibility of dividing the block into two parts at this stage.

Fraud from savings account

1410. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true as reported in the Press that frauds have been committed by swindling an amount of Rs. 153 crore from the People's Savings Account at Post Offices;

(b) if so, how did this happen;

(c) whether it is due to system failure or human failure;

(d) whether the lapses of this nature happened elsewhere also; and

(e) the measures taken to avert this defect or deficiency besides avoiding recurrence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) The news reports of fraud of Rs. 153.22 crores in different Savings Schemes and Savings Certificates in Post Offices committed by the Standardized Agency System (SAS) Agents, Mahila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojana (MPKBY) Agents, officials of the Department of Posts, and outsiders, are based on the information already laid before the House througth reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2425 on 03.12.2007. These frauds committed in 3188 cases all over the country were not due to system failure as such. Authorized Agents, postal officials and some outsiders connived and committed these frauds. Supervisory failures also facilitated continuance and non-detection of these frauds. All cases have been investigated and reported to police/CBI apart from taking departmental action against the officials involved. The Standard operating procedure as codified in Postal Rule Volumes is time tested and the improvements, if any, necessitated out of the breaches observed while handling loss and fraud cases are taken into account and corrective instructions are issued from time to time as detailed in reply to Question No. 2425 mentioned above.

Illegal re-routing of international calls

1411. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal re-routing of international calls in the guise of local calls resulted loss of Rs. 5000 crore;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent such activities which is also a threat to national security;

(c) the number of cases filed against such re-routing of international calls during the last three years; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, illegal routing of international calls is assessed to have caused a loss of about Rs. 294 Crores to the Government, in the last three years.

(b) The Government has taken the following steps:

- 34 Vigilance Telecom Monitoring (VTM) Cells have been created under DOT in various Licence Telecom Service Areas and Major Telecom Districts of the country and the VTM cells with the help of law enforcement agencies constantly endeavor to check illegal routing of international calls through local lines.
- Toll free public number — 1800-110-420 has been opened, so that general public can help the department, in detection of illegal routing of international calls through local lines.
- Surveillance has been increased to detect the fraud by verifying the bulk booking of telephones and monitoring the call traffic.
- VTM Cells under DOT act as the interface between the Security Agencies and Licensed Service Providers.

(c) and (d) The number of case filed, and the quantum of national revenue loss assessed, pertaining to the last three years are:

Year	No. of Set up	Assessed loss
2005	183	Rs. 197.30 Crore
2006	95	Rs. 95.40 Crore
2007	21	Rs. 0.46 Crore
TOTAL:	299	Rs. 293.16 Crore

Impact of submarine cable

t1412. SHRI BALVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian companies are experiencing impact of difficulty of submarine cable;

(b) whether any conspiracy is suspected behind this; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Some Indian companies experienced the impact of damage to submarine cables.

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.